

OS

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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May 22, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM:

W. R. SMYSER

SUBJECT:

Reports about the Mayaguez Carrying
CIA Coded Equipment

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

As we suspected, the Mayaguez did not stop in Saigon just before it was picked up by the Cambodians. It had, however, docked there earlier. Nor did the Mayaguez, to our knowledge, carry such classified material as codes.

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CIA tells me the following:

-- The vessel docked in Saigon on the 19th of April and left on the 20th or 21st. It carried some [redacted] administrative gear, as well as cargo belonging to the State Department and perhaps other government agencies. Nobody is too sure right now, given the nature of those hectic last days in Saigon.

-- From Saigon, the Mayaguez sailed to Hong Kong. Normally and almost certainly, all this material would have been off-loaded there and would not have been on the vessel when it was picked up by the Cambodians.

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In the light of this, I think we can deal with the press queries by saying that the Mayaguez had stopped in Saigon on an earlier trip and had loaded administrative equipment belonging to a number of U. S. agencies, [redacted] but that this equipment was no longer on the vessel when it was picked up off Cambodia and did not, in any case, include such sensational items of equipment as codes.

If you wish, CIA would be prepared to run a more thorough check to make absolutely certain that everything was off-loaded in Hong

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Kong and that, indeed, no classified material of any kind was on that vessel. At this point they are reasonably confident but, because of conditions in Saigon at the time, they cannot be absolutely certain. Such a check would, however, take some time.

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